

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1245

To award career pathways innovation grants to local educational agencies and consortia of local educational agencies, to provide technical assistance within the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to administer the grants and support the local educational agencies with the preparation of grant applications and management of grant funds, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. FRANKEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To award career pathways innovation grants to local educational agencies and consortia of local educational agencies, to provide technical assistance within the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to administer the grants and support the local educational agencies with the preparation of grant applications and management of grant funds, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Career
3 Pathways Innovation Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **ESEA DEFINITIONS.**—The terms “elemen-
7 tary school”, “local educational agency”, and “sec-
8 ondary school” have the meanings given the terms
9 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

11 (2) **BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY PARTNER.**—The
12 term “business or industry partner” means—

13 (A) a business;

14 (B) an industry; or

15 (C) a sector partnership (which has the
16 meaning given the term “industry or sector
17 partnership” in section 3 of the Workforce In-
18 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
19 3102)).

20 (3) **CAREER PATHWAY.**—The term “career
21 pathway” has the meaning given the term in section
22 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
23 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

24 (4) **ELIGIBLE AGENCY.**—The term “eligible
25 agency” means—

26 (A) a local educational agency;

1 (B) a consortium of local educational agen-
2 cies; or

3 (C) a school operated or funded by the Bu-
4 reau of Indian Education.

5 (5) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” has the mean-
6 ing given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-
7 Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
8 U.S.C. 5304).

9 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
10 term “institution of higher education” has the
11 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

13 (7) NATIVE HAWAIIAN.—The term “Native Ha-
14 waiian” has the meaning given the term in section
15 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
16 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517).

17 (8) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
18 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
19 means a program registered under the Act of Au-
20 gust 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National
21 Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29
22 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

23 (9) SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP.—The term “school
24 partnership” means a partnership that—

25 (A) shall include, at a minimum—

- 1 (i) an eligible agency; and
2 (ii) one or more business or industry
3 partners; and

4 (B) may also include one or more of the
5 following partners:

- 6 (i) A community-based organization.
7 (ii) A joint labor-management part-
8 nership.
9 (iii) An institution of higher edu-
10 cation.
11 (iv) A State board or local board (as
12 such terms are defined in section 3 of the
13 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
14 (29 U.S.C. 3102)).
15 (v) Any other entity that the Sec-
16 retary, after consultation with the Sec-
17 retary of Labor, considers appropriate.

18 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
19 means the Secretary of Education.

20 **SEC. 3. CAREER PATHWAYS INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) CAREER PATHWAYS INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
22 GRAM ESTABLISHED.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
24 able to carry out this section, the Secretary, after
25 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall es-

1 establish a career pathways innovation grant program,
2 through which the Secretary shall award grants, on
3 a competitive basis, to eligible agencies for the pur-
4 pose of addressing the specialized skill needs of busi-
5 ness and industry by carrying out career pathways
6 programs, featuring school partnerships, that sup-
7 port career pathways at the secondary school level or
8 career exploration at the elementary school level.

9 (2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
10 section—

11 (A) shall be for a period of 3 years; and

12 (B) may be renewed for one additional 2-
13 year period, if the eligible agency demonstrates
14 sufficient progress in achieving the goals of the
15 initial grant.

16 (b) APPLICATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible agency desiring a
18 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
19 retary an application at such time, in such manner,
20 and containing such information as the Secretary
21 may require.

22 (2) CONTENTS; PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.—
23 The application submitted under paragraph (1) shall
24 include—

1 (A) an initial partnership agreement, en-
2 tered into by the eligible agency and all mem-
3 bers of the school partnership, that—

4 (i) specifies the duties and responsibil-
5 ities of each partner;

6 (ii) describes the commitment of re-
7 sources or materials to be provided by each
8 partner toward the school partnership, en-
9 suring that the business or industry part-
10 ners in the school partnership provide an
11 amount of resources, in cash or in-kind, to-
12 ward the activities supported under the
13 grant that equals or exceeds the amount
14 contributed by the eligible agency and the
15 amount to be provided by the grant under
16 this section; and

17 (B) a description of how the eligible agency
18 will ensure the quality of the career pathways
19 program offered under the grant, including any
20 program that leads to an industry-certified cre-
21 dential.

22 (c) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding grants under this
23 section, the Secretary shall—

24 (1) ensure that, to the extent practicable based
25 on the applications received under subsection (b)—

1 (A) not less than 15 percent of the grant
 2 funds available to carry out this section are
 3 awarded to rural eligible agencies; and

4 (B) not less than 5 percent of the grant
 5 funds available to carry out this section are
 6 awarded to eligible agencies that serve a sub-
 7 stantial percentage of Indian or Native Hawai-
 8 ian children; and

9 (2) except to the extent necessary to comply
 10 with paragraph (1), give priority to—

11 (A) any eligible agency whose school part-
 12 nership includes an institution of higher edu-
 13 cation offering postsecondary credits, or an en-
 14 tity offering a registered apprenticeship pro-
 15 gram, through the career pathways program
 16 under the grant; and

17 (B) any eligible agency whose career path-
 18 ways program—

19 (i) at the secondary school level, offers
 20 concurrent enrollment opportunities for
 21 postsecondary credit; or

22 (ii) leads to an industry-certified cre-
 23 dential.

24 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 (1) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible
2 agency receiving grant funds under this section shall
3 use grant funds to build or expand a career path-
4 ways program featuring school partnerships that
5 supports career pathways at the secondary school
6 level or career exploration at the elementary school
7 level.

8 (2) PERMISSIVE USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible
9 agency receiving grant funds under this section may
10 use grant funds—

11 (A) to hire a designated career pathways
12 partnership coordinator to seek out and build
13 relationships with business or industry partners
14 to foster and manage the school partnerships
15 supported under the grant;

16 (B) for the costs of new equipment, infra-
17 structure (such as facilities, technology, and
18 staffing), or transportation related to the career
19 pathways program;

20 (C) to recruit or train career and technical
21 education teachers;

22 (D) to provide externship opportunities for
23 educators to spend time in industry;

24 (E) for youth apprenticeship opportunities;

1 (F) to provide, as part of the career path-
2 way program, coursework that awards postsec-
3 ondary credit at no cost to secondary school
4 students; and

5 (G) to support development of curricula
6 that offer industry-certified credentials.

7 (e) REQUIREMENTS.—

8 (1) MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible agency that
9 receives a grant under this section shall provide, to-
10 ward the cost of the activities assisted under the
11 grant and from non-Federal sources, an amount
12 equal to or greater than the amount of the grant.
13 Such matching amount may be in cash or in-kind
14 and shall include support from business or industry
15 partners of a school partnership in accordance with
16 the partnership agreement described in subsection
17 (b)(2).

18 (2) PARTICIPATION OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY
19 PARTNER.—In any case where a business or indus-
20 try partner included in an initial partnership agree-
21 ment described in subsection (b)(2)(A) withdraws
22 from a school partnership supported under a grant
23 under this section, the eligible agency shall notify
24 the Secretary immediately of the withdrawal and of

1 the eligible agency's plan for obtaining a comparable
2 business or industry partner.

3 (f) REPORTS.—

4 (1) ELIGIBLE AGENCY REPORTS.—

5 (A) INTERIM REPORTS.—By not later than
6 18 months after receiving a grant under this
7 section, the eligible agency shall submit a report
8 to the Secretary demonstrating that the eligible
9 agency is achieving sufficient progress toward
10 the goals of the grant.

11 (B) FINAL REPORTS.—Each eligible agen-
12 cy receiving a grant under this section shall
13 prepare and submit to the Secretary a final re-
14 port regarding the use of funds for the grant,
15 including the outcomes of the activities assisted
16 under the grant, by not later than 90 days after
17 the end of the grant period.

18 (2) SECRETARY REPORTS.—The Secretary shall
19 prepare and submit to Congress, on an annual basis,
20 a report regarding the grant program under this sec-
21 tion that includes a summary of the reports received
22 under paragraph (1) during the preceding year and
23 the outcomes resulting from the use of grant funds.

1 **SEC. 4. CAREER PATHWAYS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
3 Assistant Secretary of Career, Technical, and Adult Edu-
4 cation, shall—

5 (1) administer and manage the career pathways
6 innovation grants awarded under section 3;

7 (2) provide technical assistance to eligible agen-
8 cies preparing grant applications under section 3(b);
9 and

10 (3) support career pathways partnership coordi-
11 nators, or other personnel of eligible agencies that
12 have received a grant under section 3, in order to
13 ensure that—

14 (A) the eligible agency participates in the
15 required school partnership; and

16 (B) the grant results in positive program
17 outcomes.

18 (b) DESIGNATED PERSONNEL FOR RURAL AND NA-
19 TIVE-SERVING APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall des-
20 ignate not less than 1 employee of the Office of Career,
21 Technical, and Adult Education who will exclusively sup-
22 port rural and native-serving eligible agencies with the
23 preparation of grant applications under section 3(b) and
24 the development of school partnerships necessary to apply
25 for and implement a grant under section 3.

